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Businessmen and Terrorism

New York bombing: More on the way?

He is a senior officer of one of Italy's largest multinational corporations, and his luxurious third-floor apartment in the heart of Rome is just eight blocks from his office. Nonetheless, his daily journey to work has become something of an ordeal.

He opens his securely locked door only after receiving a call on the apartment intercom from an armed bodyguard waiting for him below. Then he hurries to the elevator, where he is joined by another bodyguard. He is escorted downstairs and into a courtyard, protected from the street by a 20-foot, spiked iron fence. An armored, dark blue Fiat 132 limousine awaits him there, its engine already running. While yet another plainclothed guard swings open the gate, a second blue limo carrying four ex-policemen pulls up behind. The two cars dart out into the morning traffic, detouring down several side streets along a circuitous route that turns what would normally be a five-minute jaunt into a fifteen-minute trip. As the car pulls up in front of the office, two door-men—guns bulging beneath well-tailored suit jackets—scrutinize the crowd-

ed street as they open the car door. The executive jumps out and rushes inside. Another workday has begun.

There was a time when such behavior might properly have been described as paranoid. These days, however, when politically inspired kidnappings and assassinations of businessmen throughout the West occur almost weekly, such precautions are becoming standard operating procedure. To be sure, the situation is far worse in Italy than most everywhere else. But a long string of frightening incidents—going back to the 1973 kidnapping by Marxist guerrillas of an Exxon refinery manager in Argentina and continuing most recently with the abduction and subsequent murder last month of West German industrialist Hanns Martin Schleyer by the terrorist Red Army Faction—has shocked businessmen around the world into the realization that they are all potential targets.

Business is learning to live with this grim new reality just as it has learned to live with such facts of life as unions, inflation and fluctuating currencies. Nervous executives are hiring bodyguards, armor-plating their cars, enrolling their chauffeurs in evasive-driving schools, equipping their homes and offices with security devices, cultivating an inconspicuous and unpredictable life-style and, in some cases, becoming virtual recluses. At the same time, most major corporations are devising elaborate security programs,

spending millions of dollars in the process on everything from bomb-detection gear to kidnap insurance.

For the purveyors of security services, all this has meant an unprecedented boom. The bodyguards and armored limos that security firms provide are a new status symbol for some executives. But for the majority, life has become a "state of siege," as Italian industrialist Alvaro Marchini despairingly calls it. "It's the end of any privacy," he complains. "It's degrading having to sleep with guards outside the door."

POLITICS—AND GREED

Degrading or not, it's increasingly necessary. According to the CIA, there were 239 separate terrorist attacks—ranging from bombings to kidnappings to assassinations—on individuals and their property last year, including 61 involving U.S. citizens or property. In 1968, the CIA recorded only 37 such incidents, five involving Americans. And each new successful assault by politically motivated terrorists spawns a host of assaults by "quasi-terrorists"—ordinary criminals motivated by nothing more than simple greed. By one count, more than 4,000 businessmen have been kidnapped since 1974—the latest being Dutch real-estate tycoon Maurits Caransa a fortnight ago. Caransa, who was released unharmed last week, was originally believed to have been snatched by the same Red Army Faction that murdered Schleyer; it turned out that his abductors only wanted ransom—and Caransa, naked and shackled, coolly bargained them

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